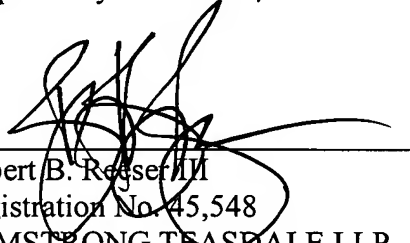


Figure 4, condensate is channeled from the intercooler, through the first compressor, and into the second compressor. Channeling condensate at any point along such flow path results in condensate being channeled into the second compressor, as recited in Claim 1.

The requirement for election is traversed because the inventions set out by the claims clearly are related, a thorough search and examination of any claim group (it is believed) would be relevant to the examination of the other group, and requirements for election are not mandatory under 35 USC. Accordingly, reconsideration of the election requirement is requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert B. Reiser III
Registration No. 45,548
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070